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LETTER

FROM

Captain John Tosier.

Commander of His Majesties Ship the.

HUNTER at FAMAICA.

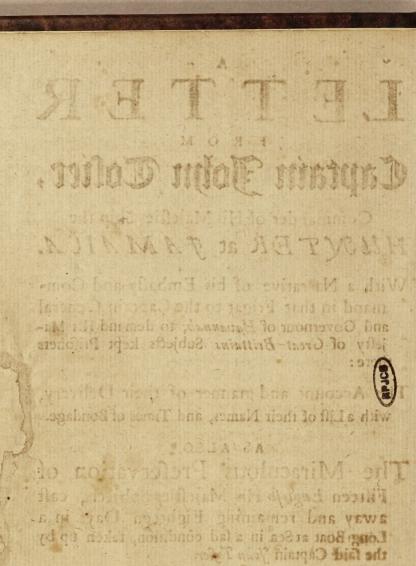
With a Narrative of his Embassy and Command in that Frigat to the Captain General and Governour of Havannah, to demand His Majesty of Great Brittains Subjects kept Prisoners there:

The Account and manner of their Delivery, with a Lift of their Names, and Times of Bondage.

AS ALSO,

The Miraculous Preservation of Fisteen English His Majesties Subjects, cast away and remaining Eighteen Days in a Long Boat at Sea in a sad condition, taken up by the said Captain John Tosser.

Printed in the Year 1679.



Printed in the Year 1679

A Letter from Captain John Tosier, Commander of His Majesties Ship the Hunter at Jamaica; with a Narrative of his Embassy and Command in that Frigat to the Captain General and Governour of Havannah.

Have received your most welcom Letters, and they came not to my hand till the 20th. Instant, because of my being at Sea: For by vertue of his Excliencies the Earl of Carlifte Captain General and Governor of Jamaica's order, I failed from hence the 25th. of January last, (as well in Quality of Embaffador, as that of my Command) for Havannah to demand from the Captain General of that place His Majesties Subjects of Great Brittain, which were kept worfe Slaves then thole of Argiers, and to often denyed to several persons of Quality, which have been sent Embassadors from time to time, with Frigats of Fifty Guns and upwards. Leave you some account of this my last; and was much troubled in order to the management of fogreat an affair and of a concern as that was, (but God be thanked) to the honour of my Matter the King of England, for whose service, if I had a 1000 lives, I would facrifice them all, I obtained that fuccess which was not expected from me by any: For the Spaniards were never known to have delivered any English that they took in the West Indies before now. And thousands of people would have ventured most of their Estates against that success

The next day after I received the Prisoners on board, It pleased God further to Crown our success by the Preservation of Captain Toseph Graves and 14 of his men (all His Majesties Subjects) who were in a long Boat, and had been caft away eighteen dayes before thirty Leagues to the Eastward of the Havannah, and expected nothing but to be utterly loft, or to be Slaves in the Havannah at the best. Captain Graves sailed hence a Month before I went out, and was bound for London; I believe he will come and see you, and give you thanks for my kindness to him which he owned here.

The great goodness of God is to be observed herein, for the first time I saw this man, he was Dr ___ and did so much abuse me, that I could hardly endure it, but I was withheld : Yet that it to happened I should be an Instrument to preserve him, you may imagine the great joy we had on Board, I for my good fortune in this undertaking; the poor Slaves for their deliverance, and Captain Graves with his fourteen men for their preservation in all their perils. Between them our Ship got two Names in two dayes, the first was the Bleffing of England by the Slaves of Havannah, and the second the Preservation by the Wrackt men.

And though this Voyage is never made in less then three Months and sometimes in four: We (putting our selves to 1. 2ilowance, having 61 of his Majesties lost Subjects on Board, befides our complement of men) made our Voyage in seven weeks

and three dayes. My love and kindness to _ &c.

Port-Royal in Jamaica the 28th. of March 1679.

SIR. I rest Your Affectionate Friend and Servant. JOHN TOSIER.

(3) N the 25th of January 1678. I Sailed from Port Reval in Jamaica for the Havannah, upon the North-side of Cuba, with Orders to demand His Majesties Subjects that were there Prisoners. On the 11th of February I arrived upon the Coast, where I lay off and on two dayes for a fettled Weather; on the 13th I Sailed within two Miles of the Moors Caftle, with our Courses in the Brailes, and our Top Sails a Trip, Jack, Ancient and Pendant flying, and fent in my Boat ashore with my List, and Mr. Richard Bere his Excellency the Earl of Carliles Gentleman of the Horse, who was sent my Interpreter to the Governour; as foon as they were within command, the Guard of the Moers Castle commanded them ashore, and put a Serjeant and Souldiers on Board them, who Guarded them up to the Governour, and left another Guard upon the Boat, that none of the men should come on Shore: I fent by them his Excellencies Letter to the Governour, and to show my Sailing Orders, and to defire his Excellencies leave to enter into, and depart out of that Port of the Havannah with the King of Englands Frigat under my Command at my pleasure, and to have my Salutes answered Gun for Gun : As soon as this was read, the Governour answered them, that all those of the Kings Subjects there, were Pirats, and therefore would deliver none; and as to my coming in, he was very willing, but he must put a Guard upon the Kings ship; and Salutes, he could not answer so much as one Gun; and then bidding them go three times out of his house, sent them Guarded away to the Boat, and fo forced them to Sea at feven a Clock at Night, and very dark upon a dangerous Coast, where they Boagged all Night; whilft I flood off and in, not thinking they would turn them out fo late : The next Morning at fix a Clock I took up the Boat with this answer, and at Nine sent them ashore again, with full Power and Instruction to tell him, that His Majesties Ship under my command is well Man'd, where he might be very safe and welcome if he would vouchsafe to give her his Company; and that His Majesty of England never spared his Powder to answer Civilities, nor received such Indignities as

Waiters

Waiters or Guards on Board any of His Majesties Ships of War, which will be a strange report, when His Majesty shall come to hear of it. And to tell him further, that though I with His Majesties Frigat cannot be admitted upon Honourable Terms, that I sent him word, that his Excellency Charles Earl of Carlifle, Captain General and Governour of Jamaica, hath commanded me one of the Captains of His Majestie of Great Brittains manded me one of the Captains of His Majesties Hand of Jamaica, to Ships of War, attending that His Majesties Hand of Jamaica, to desire his Excellency in the King of England's Name, and in obedience to the Order of the Catholick King, all the Subjects of His most Excellent Majesty, that are detained Prisoners at the Havannah, that they be forthwith set at Liberty, and delivered to me, to be Transported to the Territories of the King of England.

With several other directions, in case of a surther denyal to demand a sight of their Commitment upon Record: If Pirats, to seem them for Old Spain, and there to be Tryed, and not to be kept in perpetual Slavery; relating the several Complaints made to the King and Councel, of their most barbarous usage to our Nation here with the force of Authority, when at the same time we treat them with all tender kindness in the World, &c.

But before this Latter discourse was ended; the Governour caused the Prisoners to be called over in a back Court near his house, and examined some of them, one after another; who before he had done, said, though I have no order to deliver them to you, and that I may be blamed, yet take them all with you and if there be any more, let them come forth immediatly and they shall be discharged, at which Declaration, they all being they shall be discharged, at which Declaration, they all being they shall be discharged, at which Beclaration, they all being they shall be discharged, at which Beclaration, they all being they shall be discharged, at which Beclaration, they all being they shall be discharged, at which Beclaration, they all being they shall be discharged to the they shall be discharged to the bound the bound our Ship; immediatly I hoisted out the long Boat, and had them all on Board in less then three hours: Whereupon I set Sail the next day for the Bay of Mercances to Water, and to to Port Royal, where I arrived the 2016 day of March following, to the great sails a still men here.

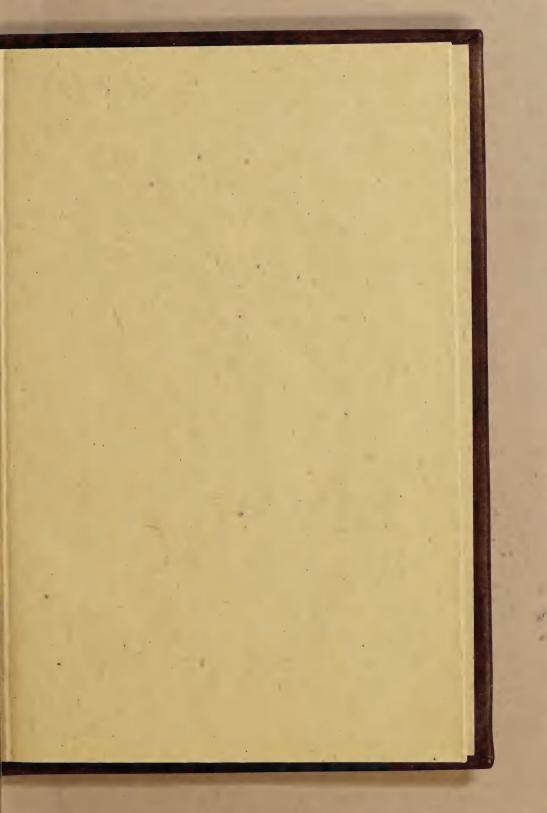
A List of all His Majesties Subjects that were Prisoners at Havannah, and received on Board His Majesties Ship the Hunter, under the Command of Captain John Tosier, lying off and on before the Harbour, on February 14. 1675. And the next day entred into Victualing at balf allowance.

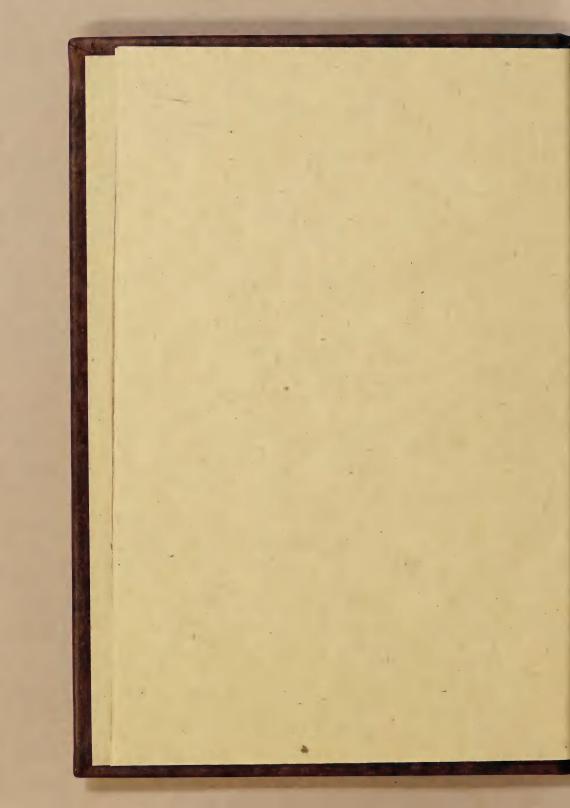
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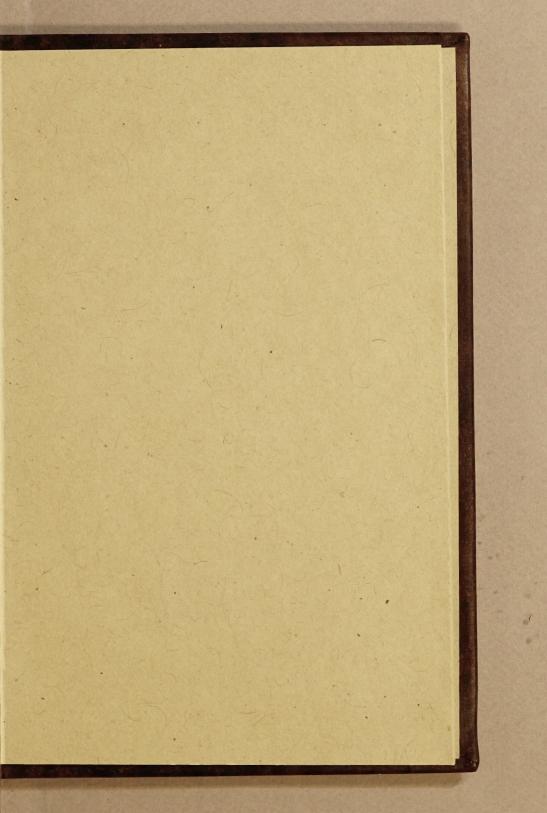
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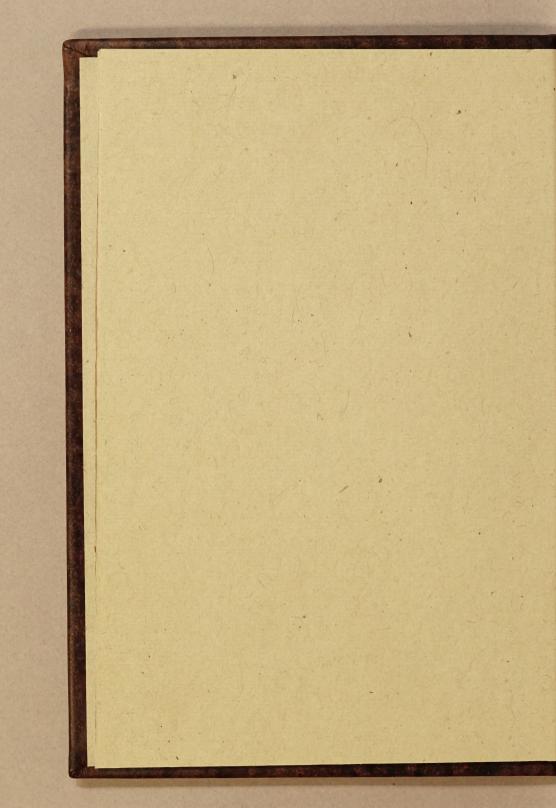
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